I ALWAYS SMILE, SMILE, SMILE.

YOUR *SMILING QUEEN*, NINO!

CHAPTER 132
NINO

AKA AKASAKA × MENGO YOKOYARI

【推しの子】

OSHI NO KO

Fan (L): Nino's big fan!

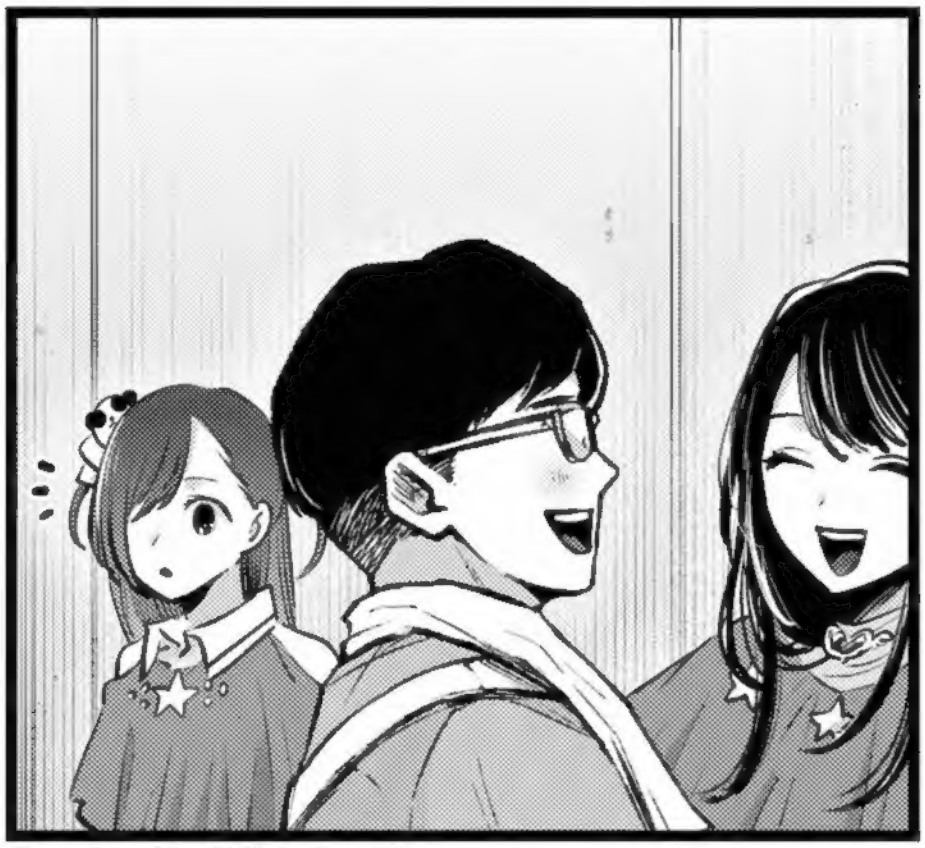
Fan (R): Nino-chan

Fan (L): Ai's fan forever!!

Light: Ai forever

Fan (R): Ai's super fan

Sign: Quick photo line



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NICE!
JEEZ, AI.
YOU REALLY CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT ME, HUH?
KEEP THIS UP AND YOU'LL NEVER GET MARRIED.

YOU'RE BOTH BEAUTI-FUL...
...AND POPULAR, SO...

DON'T TAKE WHAT'S MINE, TOO...!

WHAAAT?

WAS I REALLY LIKE THAT?

WELL...YEAH, I'VE BEEN TELLING EVERYONE THIS AND THAT,

BUT I DID IT OUT OF *LOVE*!

HEY, NINO!

DON'T JUST STAND OVER THERE. COME HERE!

And straighten yourself!

'KAY...

WE FEEL SO HONORED TO HAVE SUCH BEAUTIES PLAYING US!

RIGHT, NINO?

YEAH.

YOU'RE TOO KIND.

TEE HEE HEE.

NOOO WAAAY!

HAVING TWO PLAIN OLD LADIES BARGING IN LIKE THIS IS QUITE UNPLEASANT, RIGHT?

OH, NO. I'M SORRY.

Urgh...!!

TO THINK THAT TWO OF THE OLD B-KOMACHI MEMBERS WOULD GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO WATCH US...

HAH... WHAT AN HONOR...

WELL...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE THEIR FAN?

I DO LIKE B-KOMACHI, BUT I DON'T HAVE A FAVORITE MEMBER.

NAH, I'M GOOD. I ALREADY SAID HI.

DON'T YOU WANT TO JOIN THEM, RUBY?

I MEAN, IF I HAVE TO BE HONEST, THE INITIAL MEMBERS WERE KINDA MEH...

I'D PROBABLY JUMP UP AND DOWN IF IT WAS MEIMEI OR KYUNPAN, THOUGH...

DON'T SAY IT BLUNTLY LIKE THAT.

...

SENSEI, YOU WERE AWARE OF THE RELATIONSHIP...

BETWEEN MAMA AND B-KOMACHI TOO, RIGHT?

THAT'S WHY...

...YOU WROTE THE SCRIPT LIKE THIS.

UM...

CAN I ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS?

I'D LIKE TO USE WHAT YOU SAY AS A REFER-ENCE FOR MY ACTING.

...

IS IT SOMETHING I MUST SAY?

MORE LIKE SOMETHING THAT COULD HELP ME STUDY FOR MY ROLE.

THE GIRL WHO'S PLAYING TAKAMINE-SAN...

IS KNOWN FOR BEING AMAZING AT IT.

I DO NOT WANT TO LOSE TO HER.

ARE YOU GUYS RIVALS?

WELL, UM...

SOME-THING LIKE THAT...?

THAT'S NICE.

B-KOMACHI NEVER HAD THAT PROBLEM...

...BECAUSE NOBODY COULD RIVAL AI.

THANKS TO HER, WE GOT MORE EXPOSURE,

AND WE DID OUR BEST IN OUR OWN WAY,

BUT IT WAS PAINFUL...

I UNDER-
STAND.

HEH
HEH.

DID
YOU...

HATE AI?

I NEITHER
ENVIED
NOR WAS
JEALOUS
OF HER.

NO MATTER
HOW BUSY SHE
WAS, SHE NEVER
COMPLAINED AND
CONTINUED TO
WORK HARD.

AI DID HER
BEST IN HER
OWN WAY, TOO.
I KNEW THAT
FOR A FACT.

NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE.

FRANKLY SPEAKING, I DID HATE HER.

I'D ALWAYS WANTED HER TO DISAPPEAR.

I EVEN SAID, "GO TO HELL"...

...TO HER FACE.

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT SHE'D REALLY DIE.

AND YET, THAT MEMORY IS STILL FRESH IN MY MIND.

EVEN WHEN I USED VIOLENT WORDS AGAINST HER,

I CAN NEVER FORGET IT.

AI WAS STILL TRYING TO LOVE ME.

BUT I—

...

DO YOU REGRET IT?

YEAH.

...

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT ANY-MORE, NINO-CHAN.

IT'S ALL GOOD.

JUST KIDDING.

TEE HEE!

PFFT...

HA HA...

YOU'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM HER, AFTER ALL.

THE REAL AI WOULD NEVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

INSTEAD, IT'D BE LIKE, "DID YOU SAY THAT?"

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR.

MY WORDS COULDN'T HURT HER.

SHE WOULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER THEM.

SHE'S THE STRONGEST, MOST INVINCIBLE IDOL QUEEN, AFTER ALL.

THANK GOOD-NESS.

YOU'RE A TOTAL FAKE.

OH MY GOSH...

SHE FREAKED ME OUT!

AND HER EMOTIONS WERE ALL OVER THE PLACE!

DO I HAVE TO PLAY *HER* FROM NOW ON?!

I FELT SO RELIEVED.

THERE COULD NEVER BE A SECOND AI.

AI WAS UNIQUE, AFTER ALL.

YEAH, SHE WAS DIFFERENT.

NOT EVEN HER DAUGHTER.

WE CAN'T FORGIVE ANYONE WHO SUR-PASSES AI.

HIKARU KAMIKI-SAN?

RIGHT,